



# The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

NUMBER 61

FALL 2000

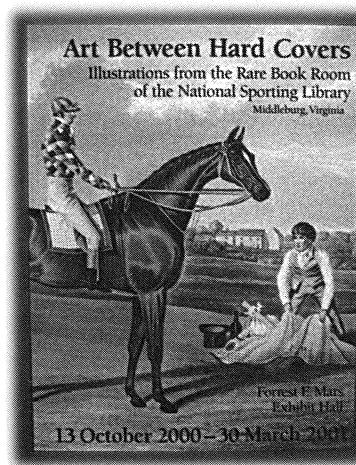
## NSL Treasures Featured in New Exhibit

By Elizabeth Manierre, Exhibits Curator

This fall, the Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall will showcase dozens of treasures selected from the Rare Book Room of the National Sporting Library. *Art Between Hard Covers*, which opens on Friday, October 13, will present fifty of the rarest or most beautiful illustrations to be found in the Library's collections of rare books, prints and original art.

"This exhibit represents an extraordinary opportunity for those who love sporting art," said NSL Director Kenneth Tomlinson. "Never before has the public had the chance to view all of these books this way—we keep them under lock and key and access to them is necessarily limited. Now these treasures will be open for all to experience."

About 3000 volumes are shelved in the Library's F. Ambrose Clark



Rare Book Room—the cream of the John Daniels, Ludwig Hünersdorf, Lord Lonsdale and other collections. Amusing, instructive, sometimes poignant, these sporting images

present themselves in a variety of media represented in the exhibition. Most common of these are the engraved and lithographic prints included in published volumes to illustrate a story, diagram a technique or portray a scientific discovery.

The Library's holdings of such work are vast. Some of these volumes are classics—the social satire of John Leech, foxhunting scenes by Henry Alken, John James Audubon's *Birds of America*—chosen for exhibition because they epitomize the tradition of sporting illustration. One of the Library's most important acquisitions in recent

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## 2000 Duplicate Book Sale — Our Biggest Yet

By Lisa Campbell, Assistant Librarian

The National Sporting Library's 2000 Duplicate Book Sale offers more titles than any previous sale with a record-breaking 497 lots. Recipients of the catalog will be thrilled with the fabulous selection of books from the entire spectrum of the Library's collection.

The overall literary quality of the selections outranks our previous sales. Most books are hard-to-find out-of-print items so popular with members of the Library. While some books will be familiar to past sale

participants, several titles offered appear in the catalog for the first time. Whether your sporting passion is angling, foxhunting, shooting, or horseracing, the catalog offers great titles to add to your personal library.

The book sale, of course, is dependent on the generosity of donors. Donations are compared to the existing collection when they are received. New titles are added to the NSL collection. Those that are duplicates, but in better condition, are

*Continued on page 3*

### EXHIBITION POSTER

Printed on ultra-heavy, coated stock, this magnificent color poster measures 22 x 28 inches and is ready to frame. A limited quantity is available for \$15 each, plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. Please send your check to:

ABHC Poster  
National Sporting Library  
Post Office Box 1335  
Middleburg, VA 20118

## Illustrations from the Rare Book Room.. *Continued from page 1*

years, the engravings in *Winners of the Great Saint Leger Stakes* after J.F. Herring's immortal portraits of great English Thoroughbred racehorses, will be on public display for the first time since the NSL obtained it.

The show has its share of delightful prints by less-well-known artists as well, depicting a variety of sport and natural history. John Gould's *Icones Avium*, a collection of newly discovered bird species, rivals the work of more-famous John James Audubon for accuracy and beauty.

Samuel Alken's illustrations join those of J.R. Cruikshank in Pierce Egan's *Sporting Anecdotes, Original and Selected: Including Numerous Characteristic Portraits of Persons of Every Walk of Life, Who Have Acquired Notoriety from Their Achievements on the Turf, at the Table, and in Diversions of the Field, With Sketches of Various Animals of the Chase...* Also on view is *The Roadster's Album*, a rare and humorous volume of hand-colored aquatints by C.B. Newhouse, an artist who confined himself almost exclusively to scenes of mail and stage coaching and sport driving. The book is an excellent example of Newhouse's work, as his images usually portray the speed associated with the open road, and the calamity or comedy that speed can bring about.

Though famous for their book illustrations, Cruikshank, Leech and Alken are also represented in the show in a different format: along side the books on exhibit are a half-dozen "panorama" prints from the nineteenth century, ranging up to almost thirty feet in length. These novelties commemorated special events like a royal procession, or provided a novel or comic view of sporting life. Panoramas were wound around a wooden spindle and stored as scrolls, or folded accordion-style be-

tween cardboard covers.

The six examples on view are displayed along the walls of the gallery, unfolded to the greatest extent possible, to expose footage that is rarely seen by the public.

Along with panoramas, three-dimensional "peep shows" were popular amusements of the nineteenth century. *Art Between Hard Covers* includes four examples open for viewing, depicting stag and foxhunting and racing. Most striking is a double view of the Thames River, above and beneath the surface—twin passageways immortalized by Thomas Hardy's 1886 novel, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, in which a wild bull appears on the road, "his two nostrils like the Thames Tunnel as seen in the perspective toys of yore." Folded flat for storage, such ephemera are seldom seen open by the public.

Another curiosities-on-display are over a dozen examples of the rare art of "fore-edge painting" from the John H. Daniels collection. The pages of a fore-edge-painted book are decorated in such a manner that the image remains completely invisible under a layer of page-edge gilt when the book is closed, but appears when the leaves of the volume are fanned open. This form of illustration probably first appeared in England during the mid seventeenth century. Common subjects included coats-of-arms, portraits, religious and classical subjects and, by the late eighteenth century, sporting scenes.

The art reached its highest expression from about 1785 to 1835 with the work of the Edwards family—William, Thomas, and James—especially in the production of "double paintings," in which a different picture appears depending on which direction the pages are fanned.

Original works on paper are among the most precious objects in the Library's collections. Included in the show are a selection of sketches

by Sir Alfred Munnings and Paul Brown, watercolors by Henry Alken, George Fothergill, and John Absolon, and pen-and-ink hunting scenes by the lesser-known artists Thomas Smelt and Thomas John Phillips. Often bound into scrapbooks and by definition unique, these pictures comprise an irreplaceable part of the Library's holdings and are an important part of any presentation of sporting illustration.

*Art Between Hard Covers* will run from 13 October 2000 through 30 March 2001, with periodic changes in the individual illustrations on view. As diverse as they may be in style, medium and subject matter, all the images on display embody a shared passion for the sporting culture that the National Sporting Library seeks to document, celebrate and preserve.

## Stella A. Walker

Stella A. Walker, a long-time friend of the National Sporting Library, recently died in England at age 93.

A journalist, Mrs. Walker was England's foremost correspondent on sporting art and the force behind the founding of the British Sporting Art Trust. Her books – *Sporting Art, 1700-1900* (published in 1972) and *British Sporting Art in the 20th Century* (1989) are considered the definitive texts on the subject.

A son and three granddaughters survive Mrs. Walker. Her husband, Geoffrey, died in 1967.

— P.W.

## Duplicate Book Sale..

Continued from page 1

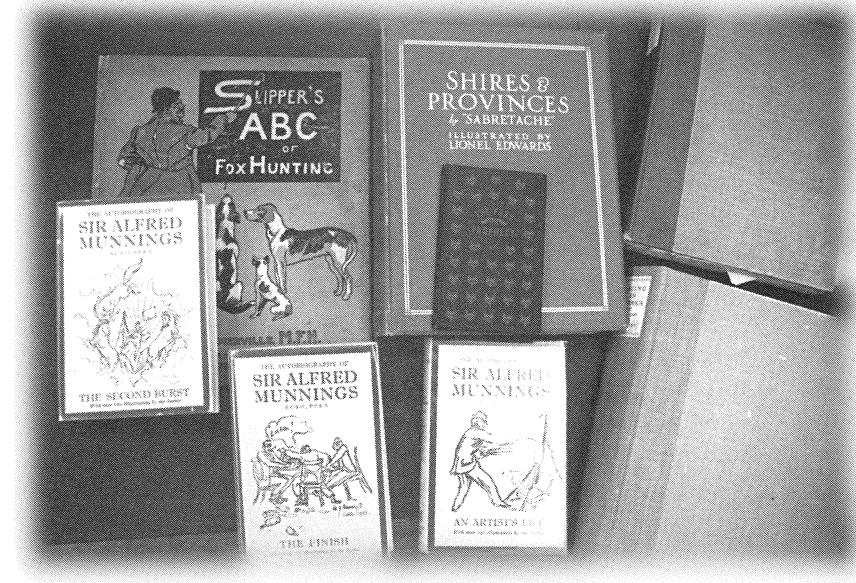
added to the collection. The remainders are entered in the book sale. The quality and quantity of books vary from sale to sale.

Sporting art enthusiasts will appreciate *The Autobiography of Sir Alfred Munnings* (#275). In his three-volume work, Munnings included over 490 superb illustrations. The artwork encompasses his life's work from a school boy's sketches to the art so loved by many. Several family photos give a glimpse of his home life. One of the most revealing things about this book is that it contains illustrations of the author's very earliest works long before he began to strive for success. It's a fascinating read about the former President of the Royal Academy known for excellence in sporting art.

For angling aficionados, Sparse Gray Hackles's (Alfred W. Miller's) *Fishless Days* (#161) is an excellent choice in angling literature. Hackle wrote in his prologue: "Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish." Therefore, he wrote about memorable fishing trips and his thoughts while waiting for the fish to bite.

If your sporting interests embrace horseracing, we have three rare volumes from the *Racing in America* series. These classics are by the best turf writers of the era. John Hervey, who has written several authoritative texts on the horses and people in racing, wrote *Racing in America - 1665-1865 [II]* and *Racing in America - 1922-1936* (#182 and 182). The depth of information and magnificence of racing artwork in the books are beyond compare.

Walter S. Vosburg wrote *Racing in America 1865-1921* (#440) the third volume in the series. Vosburg, known in the 1930s as "the dean of American racing officials and Turf



writers," was a frequent contributor to *Spirit of the Times*, a 19th century sporting magazine. For years, Vosburg served as a race track steward and was secretary of the American Turf Congress, the predecessor of The Jockey Club. Like Hervey's volumes, this book is rich in artwork and historical facts about the era's racing game.

*The Fox's Prophecy* (#11) is a rare first American edition of a poem manuscript found in 1871 among the papers of a British church. In the 25-page verse, a wily old fox voices his prophecy to a huntsman in which he warns of the demise of fox hunting and of Britain itself - "The German and the Muscovite, Shall rule the narrow seas." The fox mentions several real-life British masters and huntsmen of the Berkeley and Cotswold Hunts. This much sought-after edition was published in 1934.

A real treasure for foxhunting enthusiasts is "Sabretache's" *Shires and Provinces* (#334). This folio-size book, published in 1926, includes color plates by renowned sporting artist, Lionel Edwards. The author wrote the history and his experiences while hunting with several long-established British hunts including the Quorn, the Belvoir, the Pytchley, the Cheshire and

several more.

Edith Somerville, and her literary partner, Martin Ross, have several entries in the sale which have been favorites in the past. A rare offering is Somerville's folio-size book *Slipper's ABC of Foxhunting* (#388), published in 1903. Each letter of the alphabet is represented with a short humorous poem and artwork. "B is for Buck. Your best howlt is the spurs, And make sure they're dhruv home, When ye're goin' through furze."

On your next visit to Middleburg, be sure to stop by the Library to browse the book sale shelves. Visitors may view each book listed in the catalog, including the above titles.

The annual Duplicate Book sale is a vital fund-raiser for the Library. Thanks to active participation by NSL members, last year's sale grossed over \$30,000, an all-time high. The sale is open to Friends of the NSL with current memberships. Those who are not current members may join by mailing a membership check along with their bid sheet. To obtain a membership application or catalog, please call the National Sporting Library at 540-687-6542 or visit our web site at [www.nsl.org](http://www.nsl.org).

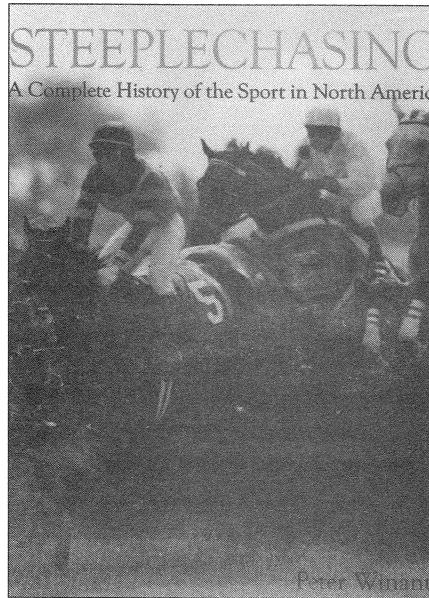
# Winants Pens Authoritative History on American Steeplechasing

The National Sporting Library takes immense pride in the recently published book *Steeplechasing: A Complete History of the Sport in North America*. And, rightly so — its author, Peter Winants, was the director of the Library in 1991-1999 and is now director emeritus. The Library's collection provided the great majority of the research for the book, and many of the graphics were scanned from its books.

Leaders in the sport agree that the six years Winants devoted to writing the book was time well spent. Charles T. Colgan, executive vice president of the National Steeplechase Association, stated: "For over 165 years the sport of steeplechasing has quietly and effectively developed a history that is virtually unparalleled in the American racing scene. The stories of sporting gentlemen and women, courageous riders and noble animals have amassed since the days of Lincoln's youth, yet never before have they been captured within the covers of one volume. Peter Winants has provided the ideal research tool, and he's done this in a way that does ample justice to the glorious sport."

Joe Clancy Jr., publisher of *Steeplechase Times*, wrote: "All the facts are here, from the first race over fences at the National Race Course in Washington, D. C., in 1834 to Lonesome Glory's retirement as the sport's only millionaire in 1999. Yet beyond mere facts the book presents personal looks at the horses, people and places that have shaped the sport."

Derrydale Press, a prominent name in sporting books, is the publisher of Winants's book in collaboration with the National Steeplechase Foundation, which grants funds for worthwhile projects



affecting the sport.

Charles C. Fenwick, Jr., president of the foundation asserted: "This book is extremely important. Major segments of the sport's history would fall between the cracks without it." Jed Lyons, president of Derrydale, added: "With the Foundation's support we have been able to produce a book of extreme quality, 320 pages, 9" X 12" in size, with over 170 graphics. We were able to add a section in color of sporting art, with reproductions of paintings of horses and race scenes by artists such as Franklin B. Voss and Richard Stone Reeves."

Winants's text is methodically structured. Chapter 1 explores happenings in steeplechasing in the 1800s in the United States and Canada. You will enjoy the colorful descriptions of the sporting and social aspects of steeplechasing by way of quotes from articles in sporting journals like the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* and the *Spirit of the Times*.

Chapter 2 has an overview of the sport from 1900 through 1999. In the 1920s and 1930s, periodicals such as

*The Sportsman, Polo and Horse & Horseman*—all in the Library's collection—were thoroughly researched by Winants, while the annual review books of the National Steeplechase Association and reports in *The Chronicle of the Horse* and, later, *Steeplechase Times* greatly enhanced his research in the 1946-1999 period.

A chapter follows on important characters in steeplechasing through the years, the subjects including owners, trainers, jockeys and administrators. Of particular interest are the sections on owner/breeder/race administrator Marion du Pont Scott and the lovable black jockey Colonel ("Not") Brooks.

Chapter 4 focuses on six historic race meetings, with visits to South Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey. The sporting heritage in each is developed.

Chapter 5 describes the horses that Winants feels are the best that raced over brush fences and hurdles in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and he goes out on a limb by creating a mythical handicap of hurdle horses in the 1974-1999 years, when National fences have been in use. He also lists whom he considers the top ten steeplechase jockeys in 1946-1999. These are the years when Winants was active in the sport, first as an amateur rider in point-to-points, then as a freelance photographer specializing in equine photography and finally as the editor and publisher of *The Chronicle of the Horse*.

Chapter 6 deals with the leading timber horses in 1900-1999, and he again invites controversy by choosing the top ten horses that raced in his favorite race, the Maryland Hunt

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# NSL Web Site Features New Pages

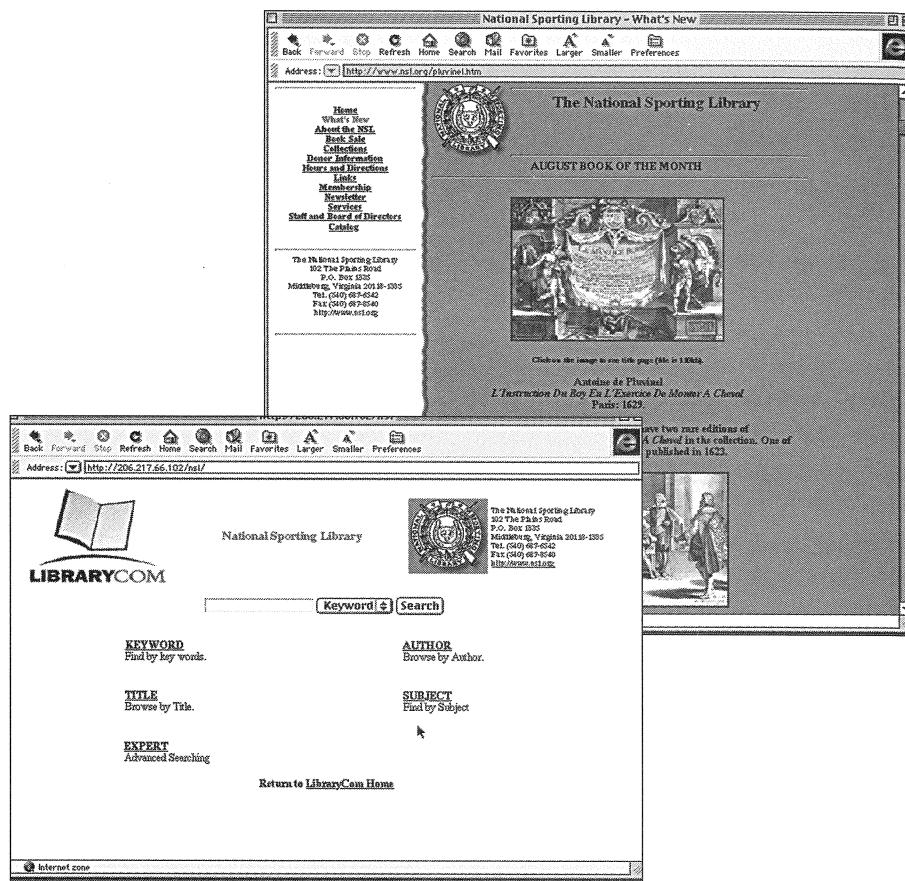
By Lisa Campbell, Assistant Librarian

The National Sporting Library's web site is in step with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Web visitors will enjoy a significant expansion to our site with added pages and beautiful graphics. New and updated pages inform the Library's members and users of the latest news, events and significant acquisitions to the Library's collection.

The addition of graphics to the pages has greatly enhanced the web site. Adobe Photoshop, the popular computer graphics display software, enables library staff to scan remarkable images from rare books and displayed artwork in the Library. With this great tool, images can be posted on the various NSL web pages to give browsers a peek at some fabulous material on the Library's shelves.

The NSL's "Book of the Month" makes great use of Photoshop. This new page flaunts unique treasures in the Library's collection. The shelves in the Rare Book Room contain the most fascinating and historically imperative books about foxhunting, shooting, angling and sporting art in the world. Each month, the Library will post a special book selected from different subject areas.

*L'Instruction Du Roy En L'Exercice De Monter A Cheval*, Antoine de Pluvinel's 1626 classic on horsemanship, led off the page as the August Book of the Month. In 1994, NSL Board member William Steinkraus donated his copy, which is in excellent condition. Flemish artist Crispin de Pas illustrated the folio-size book with 58 large folding engravings and three portraits – one of Pluvinel himself. Three images were scanned from a 20<sup>th</sup> century edition for the web page. The image file sizes are kept small to keep download time to



a minimum. Those with a more powerful computer may click on the image to see the graphic enlarged in all its glory.

Each month, as the Book of the Month changes, web browsers will still be able to see the previous month's entry by clicking an underlined blue link at the bottom of the web page.

This summer, we linked the Library's computerized card catalog to the web site. A mere click on "catalog" on the left-hand index on the home page and anyone from around the world can browse the Library's card catalog on their own computer. The software program, LibraryWorld, is easy for everyone to use. Simply search by author, title or subject to see our holdings. The on-line catalog will be updated

quarterly as additional books are cataloged.

The entire 2000 Duplicate Book Sale has been posted on the web site. This enables members and non-members alike to peruse the sale catalog. By reviewing the sale catalog on-line, viewers will enjoy a fair sampling of books housed in the Library.

Those who are not NSL members and wish to bid may click on "Membership" on the left-hand index on the home page. The membership application form will be displayed and can be printed out. Then simply mail off the application to the Library with your check enclosed.

The "What's New" page gives the latest news of Library happenings.

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# BOOK REVIEW

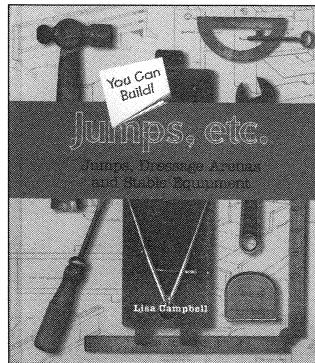
## *Jumps, Etc.: Jumps, Dressage Arenas and Stable Equipment You Can Build.*

Lisa Campbell. Half Halt Press, Boonsboro, Maryland, 2000. Illus. 77 pp. \$26.95.

Several horse-crazy grandchildren visited this summer, and in no time my yard resembled a Civil War battlefield. They built a Grand Prix show jumping course from logs from next winter's woodpile, spare fence rails, brooms and rakes, and lawn furniture served as standards. Time-first jumper classes, on foot, were a great source of enjoyment. Perhaps when these children get older, real show jumping fences and dressage rings will be needed, at which time Lisa Campbell's book will be must reading.

Campbell's mission statement is in the Introduction: "Anyone with the ambition and a few good tools can make sturdy, attractive jumps. This book is intended for just that purpose, the neophyte carpenter, a person who knows just a little about carpentry, to give it a try. With a safe, sound power saw, an electric drill, a hammer and a can-do spirit, the plans in this book will pave the way."

Chapters include Determining Your Jump Needs, Shopping for



Materials and Shopping Lists and Construction Notes for Jumps and Other Equipment. The "other equipment" includes cavelletti, flower boxes, brush boxes, mounting blocks, saddle stands and racks and grooming boxes. She also has a chapter on setting up dressage rings. Sounds simple, but I know from experience that the right angles on rectangular dressage rings can easily get out of whack, to the consternation of competitors.

Illustrations by Diann Landau — like Campbell, a horsewoman in northern Virginia — greatly enhance the text, making *Jumps, Etc.* an extremely useful book. You ready, grandchildren?

— Peter Winants

### American Steeplechasing *Continued from page 4*

Cup, in 1946-1999, as well as his choices for the best amateur riders over timber fences in the same years.

The final chapter, "Good Luck and Bad," keeps away from controversy, rather consisting of a lengthy chronology of steeplechasing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with an emphasis on items of human interest.

The majority of the book's photo-

graphs were shot by Douglas Lees and Winants himself. Winants is that rare individual who is both a splendid researcher and an artistic photographer. Winant's exceptional photos lure you into the book by captivating the speed, action and emotions of the sport. Douglas Lees contributed many marvelous action pictures which highlight the 1970-1999 years in the book.



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Robert Weber, *Librarian*

Elizabeth Manierre,

*Exhibits Curator*

Walta Warren,

*Director of Operations*

Peter Winants, *Director Emeritus*

Leading off the page is the announcement of our new exhibit, Art Between Hard Covers, opening on October 13. This page also features news regarding the NSL's latest significant acquisitions such as *Portraits of the Winning Horses of the Great St. Leger Stakes* acquired in May.

The "Events" page lists up-coming events at the library or sponsored by the library. As events are scheduled, such as lectures, films, and exhibits, the page will be updated with the latest information.

A click on "Newsletter" on the left-hand index will display information about the current NSL Newsletter. An image of the first page is posted along with a listing of the table of contents. One or two articles will be in blue and underlined. Click on a title and the article will be displayed in its entirety. When the next newsletter is published, the previous issue's linked articles will be archived on-line. Viewers may click on "Archives" farther down on the web page for a listing.

So if you have not visited our web site lately, log on at the computer nearest you soon and visit [www.nsl.org](http://www.nsl.org). You will enjoy an enrichment of information regarding the Library and fabulous images to whet your appetite for a visit in person.

## By Appointment

Although the National Sporting Library is closed evenings and weekends, we encourage friends to use the Library by appointment during these hours. We also are pleased to open the Library for out-of-town guests. Simply phone the Library at 540-687-6542 for an appointment or phone Director Kenneth Tomlinson at 540-364-1940.

# International Course Designer

## Richard Jeffery to Lecture

Renowned British course designer Richard Jeffery will deliver a lecture on October 20 at the National Sporting Library.

Jeffrey is designing the show hunter courses at the Washington International Horse Show (Oct. 24-29) and the show jumping courses at the National Horse Show in New York during the first week of November.

Jeffrey, who lives in Dorset, England, was voted "The American Horse Shows Association's 1999 Course Designer of the Year" for the fourth time by the top 30 American Grand Prix riders. He ranks as a Federation Equestre Internationale "Official" Show Jumping Course Designer. He has crafted numerous international-rated jumping courses including the courses for all ten U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Trials in 2000, the show jump courses for the international-level Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in 1998, 1999, and 2000, and the Nations Cups in Calgary, Canada, an international-level team show jumping competition in 1992, 1993 and 1995.

Jeffrey's lecture will begin at 7:00 pm in the NSL's Founder's Room. There is no fee to attend, but seating is limited and preference is given to Library supporters. To place a reservation, please call 540-687-6542, ext. 13.

## Sporting Art

*Artist Rovert Roche, A Retrospective of the NYRA Racing Years, 1959-1965* – The National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, Saratoga Springs, NY. Winter 2000-2001.

*Traditional Cowboy Arts Association Exhibition and Sale* – National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, OK. October 20, 2000.

*American Academy of Equine Art Annual Fall Showcase* – The William G. Kenton Gallery, International Museum of the Horse, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY. September 22-November 5, 2000.

## Walta Warren Joins the NSL Staff

Walta H. Martin Warren, former chair of the Fine Arts Department at Foxcroft School, has been named director of operations at the National Sporting Library.

She succeeds Ellen G. Horner, who has taken a position with CPM Network, a telecommunications subsidiary of AT&T.

A native of Thomasville, Georgia, Warren holds a Masters of Arts from Vanderbilt University. She also has studied drawing and painting in China, France and Italy.



Between 1975 and 1979 she was chair of the Fine Arts Department in the American School in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. For the following 17 years, she was a teacher and fine arts administrator at Foxcroft. Most recently, she has been a freelance artist and involved with the management of Hastening Antiques in Middleburg.

# The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council.

Mr. and Mrs. William Abel Smith  
Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Abendschein  
Joe L. Allbritton  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Arundel  
Mr. and Mrs. William Backer  
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## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Weekends by appointment



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